BAR HILL NEWS

January 2026 Issue 676

THIS MONTH: Major update from Saxon Park (Page 30), Safer Schools "We Need You" Poster (Page 7), Christmas Event Fundraising Update (Page 9), NEW Men's Table (Page 11), Parish Council Update (Page 32), and First Lego League (Page 35).

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If you'd like to contact the BHCA then you can either;

- Write to us at **Parish Council Offices, Hanover Close, Bar Hill. CB23 8EH**
- Email the Chair of Trustees at **chair-of-trustees@barhill-ca.org**, or
- Call/ message/ WhatsApp **07814 871752**.

We meet monthly on the second Tuesday at 7:30 pm in the Fox. If you'd like an agenda please get in touch!

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Association. Anonymous letters will not be published. Names and addresses may be withheld.

There is no charge for Articles, What's On, For Sale or Lost and Found. These appear at the Editor's discretion.

All items should be submitted to **bhn-editor@barhill-ca.org**

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Our supporters are at the heart of everything we do at Maggie's Cambridge and we're inviting you to be more involved in our fundraising and community events.

MAGGIE'S

Whether you can give your time, talent, share your story, or just want to hear about our opportunities, we'd love to hear from you! Email Hayley or Helen in the fundraising team and we'll be in touch: cambridge.fundraising@maggies.org

Help! We're Missing Something
Maybe it's an article by a group you support? A bit of local news? Or even details of an event? Let us know! Deadline for our February issue is **Thursday 8th January**.

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January 2026 Timetable

Every Monday, 10-12 (unless otherwise listed) in the Octagon (opposite Maple Surgery)
The Hub is for people of all ages as a place to gather & enjoy community!

5 January	Coffee Stop, Foodbank, Chess, traditional & 5Aside versions	Health & Wellbeing 10.15 - 10.45
12 January		Carers Café 10.00 - 11.30
19 January		Health & Wellbeing 10.15 - 10.45
26 January		Evergreens 10.00 - 11.30 Meet a Parish Councillor 10.00 - 12.00

WHEN: Every Monday 10am – 12pm.

WHERE: The Octagon (opposite Maple Surgery), Bar Hill, CB23 8EH

WHAT: Our vision is to create a fairer and friendlier community, so everyone can thrive and knows where to turn to for warmth, welcome, friendship and support. The Hub is a busy gathering space, providing a warm, comfortable, welcoming space for our entire community. Come along and join us, we look forward to seeing you!

Coffee Stop: Pop in for a coffee, a piece of delicious home-made cake and a chat with friends, old and new!

Foodbank: No need for any vouchers. If you are struggling financially, drop by and let us help you, available between 10am and 11.30am.

Citizens Advice: NOTICE: for health reasons, there is no village Citizens Advice service. To book an appointment for face to face, email or telephone advice with the Cambridge office, please use the following contact details

Email: https://www.cambridgecab.org.uk/get-advice/email-us/ Phone: 0808 278 7808

Evergreens: a safe space for those with memory loss to enjoy: Conversation, Connection, Celebration. Accompanied by a carer, friend or family member. When: usually 4th Monday of each month. Please see separate entry in Bar Hill News for more information.

Health & Wellbeing: On the 1st & 3rd Monday, take advantage of some exercise guidance from our experienced coach and visiting speakers (starting at 10.15am).

Carers Café: On the 2nd Monday of the month, providing support for any carers in the village, even if you are not a patient of Maple Surgery.

Meet a Parish Councillor: you can meet one of our Parish Councillors to discuss any issues within our village, between 10am and 12pm on the 4th Monday of the month. Just look for the sign within the Coffee Stop.

Traditional & 5Aside Chess (within the Coffee Stop): A great way to connect and start a conversation with people happy to teach you this wonderful game. Come along and join us for refreshments and a chat!

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LETTERS, NOTICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

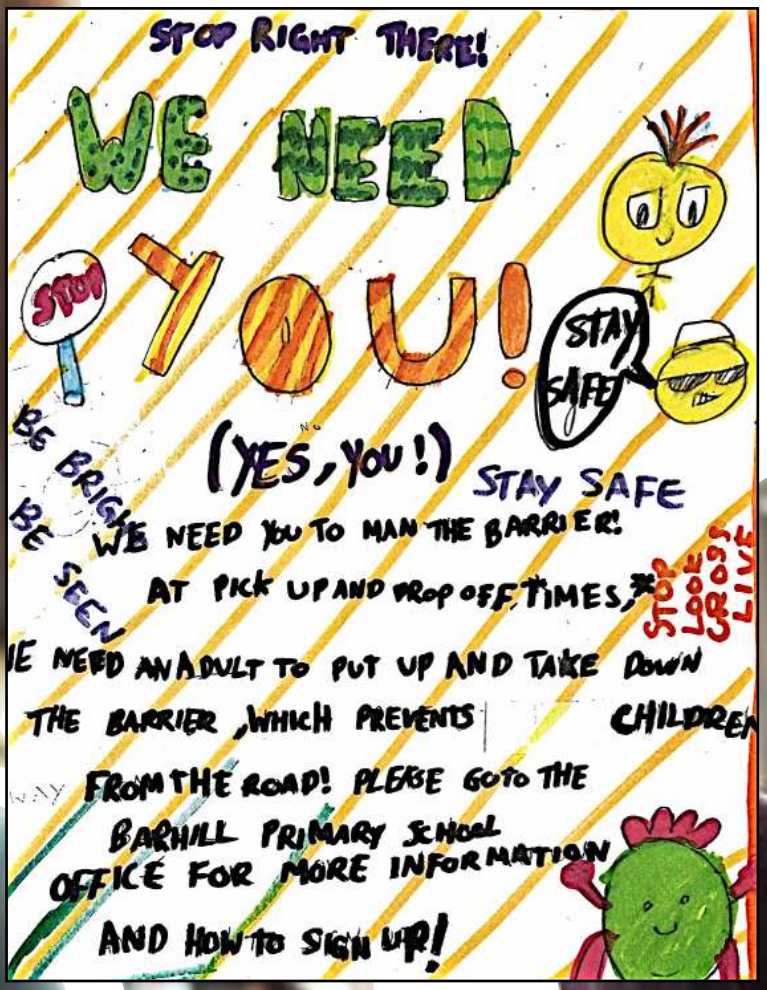
Please send your letters & notices to **bhn-editor@barhill-ca.org**. Thank you!

Bar Hill Indoor Bowls Club

We meet in the school on Friday evenings during term time only from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm with a 1/2 hour break for coffee. We are a very friendly group and we would love to have some new members. It doesn't matter if you have never played before just come along and join us one Friday, the cost is £3 per week but the 1st week is free.

Please note that after the Christmas break the 1st meeting 2026 will be on 9th January.

If you would like more information please contact me on **01954 204171 / 07847 327709** or **barbara.page@live.co.uk**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Dear Residents,

The UK Government, via the County Council, are looking to make £110 financial awards to qualifying households.

Couples must apply jointly, and eligibility depends on combined income. Applications are handled confidentially. To qualify, households must live in Cambridgeshire, have £16,000 or less in savings, and have total income below the stated thresholds (see website), including wages, benefits, pensions, and investment income.

If you believe you may qualify please go to - **https://tinyurl.com/4vjfw68t**

Thank you, Anthony Mitchell

Bar Hill Catholic Mass

Mass will be held in Bar Hill Church at 6pm on Saturdays. Our services are open to all and everyone is very welcome to attend. If you have any queries please call Bunty Waters **07734 690580**. Our local parish priest is Father Adrian Gates, from OLEM, Ditton; he is also the Hospital Chaplain - **07842 190882**.

Contact Bunty Waters for more info.

Saturday, January 10
Saturday, February 14
Saturday, March 14

Willingham Memory Box Café

Invites people living with memory loss (from any cause) and their carers to join us for Music, Company, Chat, Refreshments and Fun

from 10 am to 12 noon

In The Octagon
(behind Willingham Parish Church, with wheelchair access and no steps)

or vist our facebook page www.facebook.com/WillinghamMemoryBoxCafe/

Over Memory Café

inviting all people living with memory loss, their families and carers, to join us for Music, Refreshments and Fun.

Saturday, January 24
Saturday, February 28
Saturday, March 28

from 10 am to 12 noon

at The Over Day Centre, 1 Drings Close, Over CB24 5NL
wheelchair accessible, free parking available

please visit https://www.facebook.com/OverMemoryCafe/

The deadline for submissions is the second Thursday of the month.
Please send your article to **bhn-editor@barhill-ca.org** (PDF, Word, Pages, etc)

OVER DAY CENTRE

NEW SATURDAY LUNCH CLUB

Welcoming all residents of Over and surrounding villages to join us for lunch at the Day Centre on the fourth Saturday of each month, service starting at 12:30 following the Memory Café

to book your place or for more information visit our website
www.overdaycentre.co.uk/whats-on/saturday-lunch-club/
by email: saturdaylunchclub@overdaycentre.co.uk
or please call: 01954 231807 or 07710 694900

our next lunch is on Saturday, January 24

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Bar Hill's Christmas Magic Needs You! BHCA calls for festive heroes, sponsors, and village volunteers

Bar Hill is sparkling with Christmas cheer once again - but behind the twinkling lights and holiday magic is a team of volunteers working harder than Santa's elves on Christmas Eve. This year, the BHCA Christmas Committee is sending out a big, warm thank you to everyone who donated, with an extra round of appreciation for the Cambridge – Bar Hill Hotel, Conrad's Brewery, and the Bar Hill Parish Council.

In fact, the Christmas tree almost didn't happen at all - until the Cambridge, Best Western Bar Hill Hotel swooped in with a last-minute donation worthy of a Christmas miracle. Without them, we'd have been gathering around a very festive… lamppost.

But even with this incredible support, BHCA still had to cover more than half the cost of this year's event. And that has real consequences: every pound spent filling the funding gap is a pound that can't support other brilliant village initiatives.

And it's not just Christmas lights feeling the pinch. Much-loved events like the BHCA Fete and Festival are struggling - not because of lack of enthusiasm, but because of two things - Bar Hill urgently needs more Volunteers and Sponsors.

The BHCA is a charity powered by resident donations, business sponsorships, and local advertising, and without those, it simply can't keep these events going.

So, here's the call-to-action, Bar Hill:

Want to be a village hero in 2026?

The BHCA would love to hear from any company, organisation, club or resident who would like to support or sponsor one of our local events next year.

If you'd like to get involved - or are thinking about sprinkling a little festive generosity our way - we'd love to hear from you! Early donations are especially magical; they help us know whether an event is financially viable before we start ordering lights, booking entertainers, or the last-minute buying of Christmas Trees.

To join the fun or support the cause, just get in touch with Anthony Mitchell - BHCA Vice Chair & Christmas Committee Chair at **anthonym@barhill-ca.org**.

How to Donate (and Become 25% More Heroic With Gift Aid)

Every contribution keeps the lights on - literally!

- **Online**: **https://tinyurl.com/4dbkrc3y** or use the QR code (PayPal passes on 100% of your donation - every penny goes straight to the village.)
- **Cheque:** Make payable to "Bar Hill Community Association," write "Christmas" on the back, and pop it into the BHCA labelled, Parish Council letterbox.

And if you can **Gift Aid**, please do - every **£10 becomes £12.50**, at no extra cost to you. That's the kind of magic even Santa would envy.

This issue of the BHN went to print before the Christmas Lights Switch-On, but unless the weather pulled a Grinch-like stunt, we hope everyone enjoyed a fantastic evening. Photos and highlights will appear in the next edition.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We meet in the Octagon on the 4th Thursday of the Month, at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Dates/ Topics for the 2026 meetings will be; *January (Social), February 26th, April 23rd, and June 25th (regular meetings), and July at the Fete.*

Last year with the help of our wonderful volunteers and a generous donation from Domino the Poppy Appeal total collection has reached over £17,000. Many thanks to all our volunteers and to the amazing generosity of all who contributed.
If you would like to contribute to the RBL see here; **https://tinyurl.com/bd8mm8f9**

If you are interested in joining or would like further information or help, please contact either Wendy Arrowsmith on **01954 781381** or Malcolm Cox on **01953 488657**.

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Join Bar Hill Parish Council!

The Parish Council is looking for THREE new Parish Councillors to help make a difference in our community.

If you care about Bar Hill and want to have a say in local decisions, projects, and improvements - we'd love to hear from you!

No experience needed - just enthusiasm and a desire to get involved. Full training provided.

Interested? Contact the Clerk at **clerk@barhill-pc.gov.uk** or visit **www.barhillparishcouncil.gov.uk** for details.

Be part of shaping Bar Hill's future - your community needs your voice!

Bar Hill HAPPY HOURS Club

The Bar Hill Happy Hours club meets in the main bar area of the Bar Hill Sports and Social Club between 2 and 4pm on Friday afternoons for tea/coffee and cakes, getting together with friends, fun and games. All of this for only £2 per person. The bar is open if you want something extra.

Coming in January:

2nd Jan Happy New Year
9th Jan Bingo and a quiz
16th Jan Games and a quiz
23rd Jan Bingo and Burns Night Scottish themed quiz.
30th Jan Games and a quiz

Anne Plumb | **07790 306922** | **anne@rwp10.plus.com**

Dear Residents,

Many thanks to all who attended the Christmas Market at the beginning of December.

Watch this space as we will be having a new style Community Market in the new year!

Thanks,

Wendy Arrowsmith

8 o'clock club

The club is a women's group and we meet in the school on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm. *Please note as we do not meet in January the 1st meeting of 2026 will be on Thursday 5 February.*

Our fee is £15 per year to join and then we make a charge at each meeting to cover the cost of refreshments and a raffle.

We welcome new members to the club. If you would like to join please come along to one of our meetings or phone Barbara **204171** (**07847 327709**) Adela **204265** or Ann **204687**

THURSDAY 15 JANUARY 2026

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Edna Murphy - **Edna.Murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk**
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Cambridgeshire County Council

New highways maintenance team established in the county

Highways maintenance – looking after roads, pavements, cycle paths, crossings, drains, signs, lines, signals, trees and more – is a council service that has been under a huge amount of pressure for a very long time. Funding for highways maintenance comes from Government (via the Mayor) and for years it has been insufficient. This has meant that the condition of the highways has become progressively poorer and more prone to damage or breakdown. We are not unique in having this problem. Alongside this a lot of highways infrastructure is maintained by National Highways, who are very difficult to deal with, they do not relate to local residents or the council.

We have been working for some time to turn the situation around. It takes a lot of time and money to do this, and while there are still many issues and some way to go, there have been some notable improvements.

Part of the solution has been additional investment into the service. In addition to what we receive from Government we have put council resource in too – in the region of £20m pa for 3 years. Another important factor has been a significant restructure within highways and ensuring we have the right staff to respond to the problems we have. There has also been investment in the systems used which simplify and speed up the processes involved. There is still work to do in terms of renegotiating the major outsourcing contract, which delivers most of the work for the council, which comes up for renewal in the next couple of years. We want to secure more quality outcomes and better value for money, as well as allow services to be returned in house where appropriate.

There is now a team of highly qualified highways maintenance officers who support Bar Hill and we meet regularly with the parish councils in the area to address all issues arising. It's not perfect, but it is starting to improve.

For example, the council recently got tough with overstaying gas works in Cambridge at Hills Road. Failure to resume work after Remembrance Sunday by Cadent Gas caused complications to other utilities companies and disruption to local businesses, transport and residents. The council took action issuing fines and withdrawing their permit.

Overall in 2024-25, Cambridgeshire County Council issued fines totalling £483,000 to utility companies and developers for non-compliant and over-running roadworks. The council processed more than 32,000 street work permits last year, regulating when and how works can take place on the highway.

Please do keep suggestions for highways improvement and any problems or concerns you have coming to me, as it's important to report anything you think needs to be fixed.

Next up: county council budget – more on that next time!

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Bar Hill Church News

Services for January may be viewed on our website barhillchurch.org.uk

What's new for under fives in 2026?

Little Treasures!

This new group is for parents / carers and their little ones – new-borns, toddlers, under fives.

Anyone caring for a pre-school child or baby is most welcome to come along, whether you have any previous experience of Christianity or none!

What to expect:

Breakfast with drinks, fruit and pancakes, croissants.

Circle time with a mix of favourite nursery rhymes and **songs** to match the season.

Interactive **storytelling. Exploring** with **quieter** and more **active areas** designed to help children and their carers play and reflect together including **sensory play** and **crafts.**

An opportunity to sit and **chat!** We really understand what it's like to be so tired that all you want is a hot cuppa while a friendly face holds your little one.

Celebration and finish!

We hope to see you at Little Treasures!

Contacts

Church Office: Ian Farr, 01954 206120, church.office@barhillchurch.org.uk

Enquiries about hiring space for an event should be directed to Ian.

Minister: Revd Wendy Wale 07780 828865

minister@barhillchurch.org.uk follow us on

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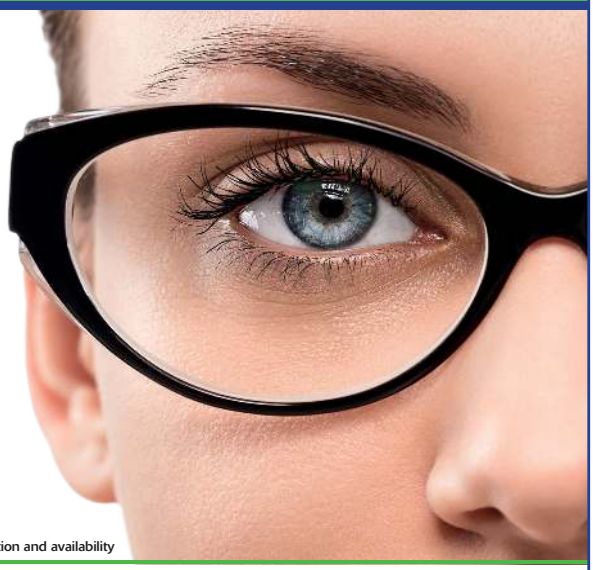

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BAR HILL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Bunty Waters - **bunty.waters@scambs.gov.uk**
01954 201421/ 07734 690580

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

Welcome if you are new to the village, meet me in the HUB on Monday mornings for a coffee, you can contact me if I can help in any way or you would like more information

CABLE THEFT

Thieves are continuing to target underground cables in our area - and it's causing serious disruption to communities.

Cable theft is not just a crime - it can leave homes and businesses without power, phones and internet and costs thousands to repair.

If you see anything suspicious - people working on cables late at night, unusual activity near roadside boxes, or vehicles parked in rural areas - please call **999** if a crime is in progress, or 101 to report information. You can also report anonymously to Crimestoppers, on **0800 555111**.

PLANNING

Planning can be controversial or difficult at times, however, if you need any help please do get in touch with me and I will see if I can help or advise.

GRANTS

South Cambs Community Chest is there to help should your group need either with start up with fundraising for a specific purpose or just what is needed for activities or upgrading etc. Please contact me if I can help with any support.

MVAS (MOBILE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN)

I was pleased to hear the the MVAS signs have successfully been applied for by the Parish Council and will be received for the perimeter road around the Village. To be installed soon.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

It was pleasing to see that residents in South Cambridgeshire were fairly confident about areas not being overlooked in the reorganisation, as well as feeling they belonged in their local community.

However, as well as the low 4% trust result, it was disappointing to see that only 9% of people in the district strongly agreed that they were satisfied by the quality of services provided by the local council. This was lower than East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Fenland councils, and it's particularly disappointing when the number of residents 'relying on council services' across all the councils in the county showed no significant differences.

You can read the full report findings here: **www.scambs.gov.uk/media/rl4niq3c/final-public-survey-accessible.pdf**

SCDC has recently launched a further survey called 'How are we doing?'. The purpose of this survey is to give residents and businesses the opportunity to provide feedback on the council's services. We would encourage residents to complete it here: **www.scambs.gov.uk/leave-feedback**

Bar Hill Memorial Garden

Winter is fast approaching, however, we are past the shortest day, the bulbs will soon be pulling through with the start of the New Year. The October tidy up last year has made a real difference. Thank you to all who helped. Should there be any gardeners keen to help in this project please contact Chris below.

My grateful thanks to all who continue to donate towards the upkeep of the Memorial Garden, cheques / cash may be left at 7 Acorn Avenue made payable to Bar Hill Memorial Garden or alternatively paid directly into Bar Hill Memorial Account at the Cambridge Building Society Account Number 1768402740 Sort Code 20-17-55.

Please contact Chris if you want to help!

Should you wish to place a Memorial Plaque then contact Chris Stannard **01954 781978**, **07711 623425**, **c.e.stannard1@gmail.com**

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Registered Charity No. 1209296
http://www.barhillpreschoolcio.co.uk

01954 782892 | enquiries@barhillpreschool.co.uk
www.barhillpreschoolcio.co.uk

On behalf of Bar Hill Preschool CIO, we wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Preschool had fun in December with the Festive activities, including sensory type activities with cinnamon and orange scents.

Our children were very interested in the frosty weather and how ice is formed, searching the garden for evidence of ice and exploring how to break it. They then followed this up with some ice exploration inside with some food dye mixed with water, so they could mix colours together and watch them spread across the ice.

Following on from child interests of building houses, we focused on the book "Three Little Pigs", exploring different types of houses and how robust they are or not!

We finished the term with our 'Christmas Nativity' activity at the church and our end of term Christmas party.

Thank you to all that provided prizes and brought tickets for our Christmas raffle.

Hedgehog Fact: Hedgehogs often perform a "self-anointing" - when they find an unusual smell, they create a frothy saliva and smear it over their spines. Scientists still don't fully understand why!

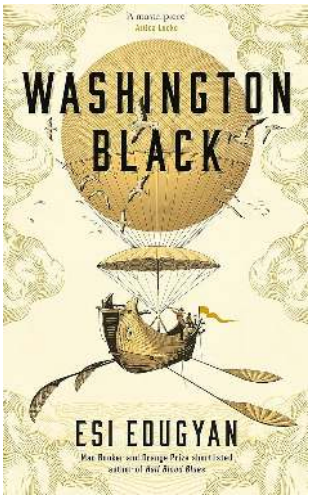
Also a big thank you to Domino's Bar Hill, who kindly helped us purchase a new iPad, which is supporting us to communicate on our learning journal system with outer families.

Interested in our setting? Call **01954 782892** or email vhmanager@barhillpreschool.co.uk.

We offer places for children attending term time between the hours of 8.30am and 3pm from the age of two years old.

Bar Hill Ladies Book Club

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th Jan at the Social Club, time 19.30 hr. This month's book is ***Washington Black by Esi Edugyan.***



We are a friendly group of ladies who love to read & share our opinions & thoughts.

Please join us, you will be so welcome.

Please email Julie for more information **julie45172@outlook.com**.

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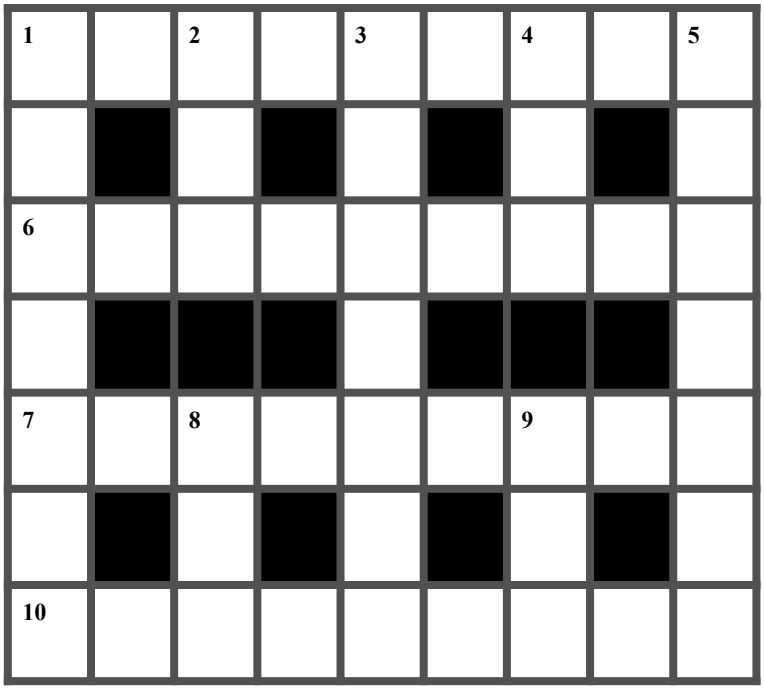

PUZZLE for JANUARY 2026

Across: 1.really good. 6.Central American country. 7.without dissent. 10.declaration.

Down: 1.they hold breakfast food. 2.tea. 3.sheltered position. 4.period of time. 5.a passing across. 8.also known as. 9.unprocessed mineral.

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UNDER THE LIGHTS

The early sunsets have meant that floodlit play has become the norm for our evening sessions, and we've brought forward to 5pm the start time for the pickleball evening Club time. We continue to play in the cold weather, so long as it's safe under foot.

TAKE CARE…

We are currently seeking funding to resurface our ageing courts as the surface is breaking up in places leaving loose gravel on the surface. So anyone playing should take care, and particularly check that the courts are suitable for play after rain.

OCCASIONAL PAY & PLAY GAMES

You can book a pay & play game using the tennis nets and your own equipment. Go to **https://barhilltennisclub.co.uk/book**.

CLUB TIMES

Our Adult Club nights for social tennis are Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 6.30pm.

Our Adult Club times for pickleball are Monday evenings starting at 5.00pm, and Friday mornings at 10.00am.

HALF YEAR NOW AVAILABLE

Half-year club membership runs from September to March and is now available from the website. Membership covers both tennis and pickleball and you can be part of the WhatsApp groups for either or both sports which give info about what's happening. You can apply online on the website.

Paul Chubbuck
chair@barhilltennisclub.co.uk

Richard Lewney
secretary@barhilltennisclub.co.uk

Ian Foot
treasurer@barhilltennisclub.co.uk

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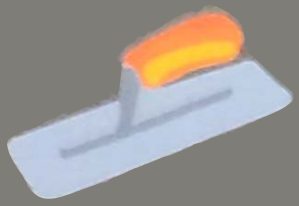

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Helping Hedgehogs in January

January is one of the toughest months of the year for our hedgehogs. With cold temperatures and scarce natural food, every small act of kindness can make a real difference.

🦔 Check for Winter Visitors

Most hedgehogs should be in hibernation now, but some will wake up if their nest gets disturbed or if they haven't built up enough weight. If you see a hedgehog out in January - especially during the day - it's often a sign they need help.

🍽️ Offer Emergency Food

Put out a little high-quality hedgehog food or cat/kitten biscuits and fresh water. Never give mealworms, peanuts, or bread - they can cause serious health problems.

🏠 Create Safe, Cosy Spaces

If you have a hedgehog house, check from the outside only - never lift the lid or disturb a nest. Leave leaves, hay, and natural materials around your garden so hedgehogs can top up their bedding.

⚠️ Watch Out for Hazards

- Keep an eye on bonfire piles, log stacks, and compost heaps - hedgehogs love to hide in them.
- Cover ponds with a ramp or bricks so they can climb out if they fall in.
- Avoid using slug pellets or chemicals.

🌙 Encourage Natural Behaviour

A quiet, wildlife-friendly corner with leaf litter, shrubs, and no disturbance gives hedgehogs a safe place to hibernate and forage when needed.

For help and advice contact : Liz Dams - **07912 988898** / Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital - **07947 361187**

Wildlife-Friendly Gardening

January may feel quiet in the garden, but it's a crucial month for helping wildlife survive the coldest part of the year. A few simple actions can make a huge difference.

🦪 Keep Feeding the Birds

Natural food is scarce now. Offer a mix of seeds, suet, fat balls, and fresh water. Clean feeders regularly to prevent disease.

🦔 Leave Corners Untouched

Log piles, leaf heaps and overgrown corners give small mammals and insects shelter during winter. Avoid tidying too much.

🪱 Protect Overwintering Insects

Butterflies, ladybirds, and beneficial insects are hibernating in dead stems and hollow plant material. Save major pruning for spring.

💧 Provide Water

Check outdoor water sources daily. A shallow dish of unfrozen water helps birds, foxes, hedgehogs, and even insects.

🌱 Plan for Pollinators

Now is the perfect time to plan or order early-flowering plants like crocuses, snowdrops, and winter heather - vital nectar for emerging bees.

🔥 Check Before You Burn

If you're burning wood or garden waste, always rebuild piles on the day. Hedgehogs love hiding in old stacks.

🪴 Create Shelter

Nest boxes, bug hotels, hedgehog houses, and log piles offer vital warmth and protection in January's icy weather.

🌾 Leave Seed Heads Standing

They provide food for birds and hiding spots for insects - plus they look beautiful in the frost.

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BAR HILL LIBRARY - January 2026

We are hoping to be able to welcome you back to your newly refurbished library early in 2026. Please keep an eye out for posters and on social media for updates.

National Year of Reading

Our re-opening will coincide neatly with the beginning of the National Year of Reading .

Did you know that 2026 will be the National Year of Reading?

The aim is to encourage people of all ages to read for pleasure. With the message "Go all in!" the campaign invites us all to read more deeply into topics we already care about. As we go all in to find out about what we love, there's a chance to experience how the act of reading can benefit mental and emotional wellbeing.

Already a keen reader? Fantastic! Please help people you know to discover the joys of reading for pleasure and purpose, by sharing and talking about books and reading. At Cambridgeshire Libraries we'll be highlighting the National Year of Reading throughout 2026 - watch this space for more details.

Thank you!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during our temporary closure. It has been wonderful to see so many of you at our 'pop-up' sessions in the village hall and look forward to seeing you again in our newly refurbished building.

BOBS January 2026

Welcome to the males in Bar Hill.

What is BOBS we stand for Bar Hill Old Boys. BOBS is a replacement for Crafts Shed that after 5 years of operating as a Charity the painful decision was taken due to lack of accommodation we disbanded as a Charity.

What do we do, we meet on Thursdays in the Octagon Meeting Room between 0945 and 1130. We may just chat, play chess, or some play Table Tennis. Occasionally some may go for tea/ coffee or lunch afterwards. It is a great group to be a member of. Don't be on your own when you may be able to make new friends.

By the time you read this article the members will have enjoyed a Christmas Lunch at the Fox, Bar Hill.

Should you require further information then either contact Nick Gunton on **07484 255514** or Chris Stannard **07711 623425**

Bar Hill Day Nursery and Out of School Club

www.buttercupschildcareltd.co.uk

Bar Hill Day Nursery is based in Gladeside, Bar Hill. We are open 7.30am – 6pm, Monday to Friday, 50 weeks per year. We have spaces year-round or term-time for children aged 4 months to 4 years. Please contact the Nursery for more information or to arrange a visit. **Phone: 01954 488081 Email: info@buttercupschildcareltd.co.uk**

Bar Hill Out of School Club is based in the building next to Bar Hill Primary School. We offer Before and After School care and Holiday Club for Primary aged children. We are open 7.30am – 8.45am, 3pm – 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am – 6pm during school holidays. For more information or to make a booking please contact the Out of School Club: **Phone 01954 200814 Email: oosc@buttercupschildcareltd.co.uk**

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Bar Hill Village Hall

The large Main Hall has multi-purpose vinyl flooring, making it flexible for all types of events. There is a kitchen alongside the Hall with a serving hatch, making it useful for self-catering at parties, discos and the like. The licensed bar can be booked on request and will be serviced by the Sports and Social Club. The Hall opens out onto a large patio area that is ideal for external activities or a spill-over for internal events and has two bolted gates that lead off the premises.

There is also a Meeting Room, with its own independent access and great for meetings of up to 10 people.

The Village Hall is managed as a registered charity (number 1002579). To book, please visit our web site **barhillvillagehall.com** and email **enquiries@barhillvillagehall.com** to confirm arrangements.

Alternatively, call **01954 782414** and leave a message. We aim to return calls within 24hours (Monday to Friday).

EVERGREENS

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Thank you for visiting us at our Christmas markets throughout December.

Our next in person stall is at Bar Hill Community Market on Saturday 26th March 10am to 1pm in the Church Octagon

New members are always welcome, whether to contribute financially, to join our team of crafters, join our committee, provide transport for our volunteers or display a small selection of our wares. If you would like to donate some of your spare time check out our website's volunteering page for some ideas.

You can purchase online from our shop;

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IAN SOLLOM MP NEWSLETTER

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Happy New Year to all residents of Bar Hill – I hope you had a joyful festive period. As I write this during the final two weeks of parliamentary business before Christmas Recess, I am certainly looking forward to making the most of the short break to get out and about across the constituency.

Autumn Budget 2025

The Chancellor's Budget was a golden opportunity to cut the cost of living by cutting energy bills, and to boost our high street at the heart of our community.

We Liberal Democrats have long called for action on these issues – and the Government was elected to deal with them. But the Budget failed to take meaningful action that will support families and businesses.

It is completely unfair to keep raising taxes on already struggling people – including by freezing tax thresholds again, after the Conservatives inflicted years of stealth taxes on them, and the Government hit them with the disastrous jobs tax last autumn.

Before the Budget, we Liberal Democrats put forward fair, funded ideas to support businesses and families, including saving the average household £90 a year on bills by removing the Renewables Obligation from electricity bills, and with an emergency 5% VAT cut for high street shops, restaurants, and other attractions, funded by a new windfall tax on big banks.

It's disappointing that the Government has, once again, ignored our calls.

If the Government is serious about growth and improving the lives of people across the UK, it must take its head out of the sand and fix our broken relationship with Europe.

Brexit cost us £1.7 billion a week this year – resulting in the highest taxes ever, sky-high bills and a cost-of-living crisis that blights millions of lives. This is simply not good enough, and people deserve better.

I will continue to work to secure a fair deal for St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire, and to push for the real change and growth we were promised.

Changes to Indefinite Leave to Remain

Before Christmas, I was pleased to attend one of the regular 'UK Welcomes Refugees' events in St Neots, which brought together people from Hong Kong, as well as other refugee communities who have made our constituency their home.

I know many residents, especially those here on British National (Overseas) (BNO) visas are concerned about how the Government's changes to Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) may affect them.

My Liberal Democrat colleagues and I are committed to representing those who are affected by these changes, and my office remains available to assist those with queries about visa applications.

If you would like to contact me, please email **ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk**, visit my website **www.iansollom.org**, or alternatively you can follow me on X: @IanSollom, Facebook **www.facebook.com/IanFSollom** or Instagram **www.instagram.com/iansollom**

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Bar Hill Primary School

Meridian Trust

Junior Travel Ambassadors

The JTA are working closely with our Road Safety Officer and Parish Council to support the School Street vision. Our KS2 pupils took part in a poster-design competition, and we are excited to share the winning entry with you (on the letters page!).

Please take a look, and if you're interested in getting involved or would like more information, we encourage you to get in touch with the school.

Dear Community Dog Walkers

We kindly ask all members of our community to be mindful when walking dogs on or near the school field. Recently, we have had a few incidents where dogs off their leads have run through PE lessons, and some walkers with dogs on leads have passed directly through teaching areas. This can disrupt learning and, importantly, can make some children feel anxious or unsafe.

To help us keep our pupils focused, confident and happy during outdoor lessons, please ensure dogs are kept on leads and away from any PE or sporting activities taking place on our school field.

Thank you for your understanding.

Gymnastics Engagement Day

On Monday 24th November, British Gymnastics hosted an Engagement Day in partnership with the Play Their Way campaign, funded by Sport England.

Our school was invited to take part, and 13 excited KS2 pupils travelled to Cambridge University to take part in an inspiring child-first coaching session led by British Gymnastics coach Carina Parks (with a special guest appearance from Olympic gold medallist Max Whitlock!)

Throughout the event, a large number of gymnastics coaches observed the session, alongside media teams capturing professional footage – so keep an eye out for coverage in the coming weeks.

The pupils said they enjoyed every minute of the session and were incredibly proud to represent the school.

One Year 4 pupil shared: "I was scared to go, but I gained lots of confidence."

Another asked excitedly: "Can we go again?"

It was a memorable day for all involved and a celebration of child-centred coaching.

SAXON PARK UPDATE - January 2026

Maverick Is Rolling In!

Big news, skaters and scooter riders! The Skate Park Working Party, after reviewing all the applications, recommended Maverick to the Parish Council. This was agreed at the November meeting of the Council. We'd like to give a huge thank you to the Council for their continued support!

We caught up with Russ, one of Maverick's founders and a lifelong skater, to hear what's coming next.

Russ has been skating since he was ten and has been building amazing skate parks with Maverick for nearly 20 years. Their team isn't just about construction - they ride, they design, and they know exactly what makes a skate park fun. Some of their coolest creations include Hove Lagoon (super colourful and by the sea), Concrete Waves in Newquay and Godmanchester if you want to try one nearby.

So, how does a skate park go from a plan to fresh concrete under your wheels? Russ breaks it down into three stages:

- Community Consultation – where your voice helps shape the park.
- Planning Permission – making sure everything's safe and legal.
- Funding – the cash that makes it all happen.

Even after planning, there's flexibility. Features can move around or change size depending on funding and community feedback. Challenges pop up - like underground pipes or tricky planning rules - but Maverick's got it covered.

Community support is key to the project's success! Crowdfunding is a great way to show you care - and it actually helps bring in big funders too. Examples like Millbrook and Totnes show that even small communities can raise thousands for their parks.

Russ is pumped to get started and work with Bar Hill residents to create a park everyone will love. Stay tuned, get involved, and get ready to shred Saxon Park!

Catch the full interview by scanning the YouTube QR code or by visiting: **https://tinyurl.com/3ezwzm9t**

To support the skatepark, you can donate in a few ways: scan the JustGiving QR code or visit: **https://tinyurl.com/yymdbwm5**, or write a cheque to "Bar Hill Community Association", write "Skatepark" on the back, and pop it into the BHCA post box at the Parish Council Offices.

If you'd like to get involved or are interested in becoming a sponsor reach out to the BHCA Skate Park Task Group Chair - Dave Wright by email: **davew@barhill-ca.org**

SAXON PARK

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BAR HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Office, Hanover Close, Bar Hill. CB23 8EH
Chairperson: **bunty.waters@barhill-pc.gov.uk**

🎉 Happy New Year, Bar Hill! 🎉

Wishing all our residents a bright, healthy and happy New Year!

Thank you for your support, patience and community spirit throughout the past year - it truly makes Bar Hill a wonderful place to live.

Trees

We'd like to let residents know that, unfortunately, the Poplar trees in the Horseshoe will need to be removed they will be removed on 19 January 2026. This decision follows expert advice from Haydens and the findings of the recent tree survey.

The Parish Council is always reluctant to remove trees, but these Poplars have been badly affected by Hornet Moth and are showing serious signs of drought stress.

The Parish Council will ensure that any replacement planting is carefully considered to maintain the character and beauty of the area for years to come.

Fly Tipping

Please can residents not Fly Tip their rubbish as this involves a considerable cost (£120) to residents and comes out of the precept. If you would like to give away free items, please put them on your property boundary and not on public/private land.

Rat Issue in Bar Hill

I've spoken with an independent pest controller, who advised that the activity appears to be coming from the direction of Tesco-owned land. Following that advice, I've contacted Tesco directly and asked them to look into the situation urgently and take the necessary action.

I'll keep you all updated as soon as I hear back from them.

Thanks to everyone who has raised concerns - it really helps us stay on top of things.

📣 Stream Maintenance Update

Hi everyone - just an update on the stream works happening around the village.

We'll be carrying out a round of maintenance that includes:

- Clearing debris and blockages
- Strimming the embankments
- Removing excess vegetation in the channel to keep the water flowing properly

These works are aimed at improving water movement, reducing the risk of flooding, and keeping the area looking tidy.

Litter Picking

A big thank you to all those that take time to pick litter around the village. If anyone would like a bag & litter picker to pick when they have time, please contact the Clerk on **01954 780456** or **clerk@barhill-pc.gov.uk** to collect from the PC office.

📣 Reminder for Residents – Please Keep Vegetation Trimmed

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Full Council Meeting

15 January 2026 - 7pm in the Parish Council Office

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MAPLE SURGERY - November Update

maplesurgery.enquiries@nhs.net | 01954 780442

Planned closure days for staff training (2 to 6pm); 15th January, and 17th February.

Flu vaccinations

While the rush for Flu and Covid vaccinations is now over, we currently still have some flu vaccine available for anyone who is over 65. If you know anyone who is looking to be vaccinated, please point them in our direction.

We will continue to offer vaccines to those patients who are eligible until 31st March.

Refurbishment of Maple Surgery

By the time you read this, the builders will have been at the Practice for some time.

Through the first phase, they are initially focussing on the waiting area, patient toilets, admin offices and 2 x clinical rooms at opposite ends of the building.

The second phase will include 2 x clinical rooms along with the staff toilets.

The last phase will give the team the chance to work on the nurse rooms as well as the room most used by the GP's.

The work is to be undertaken across 3 phases, each of which will focus on specific rooms within the Practice

The works are planned to take 16-18 weeks with an end date of 27th March 2026. The surgery will remain fully open and functioning throughout the process, although there may be periods of time where you will be required to use alternative reception / patient waiting areas and entry doors.

We are sure that the end result with be an improvement for patients, staff and visitors to the Practice.

We will work closely with the contractors to keep any building disruption to a minimum, but please bear with us during this time.

Olive Tree Bereavement Group

Our next meeting for members will be on held on Saturday 10th January at 10.30a.m. The following month is 14th February2026. Both are held in the Octagon at 10.30a.m.

We will be pleased to see you if you are a regular member, a new member or if you have never been before.

Days are shorter and darker, we are approaching Winter, however, by the time you read this article the days are slowly growing longer. A feeling of isolation and loneliness, particularly at nights might occur. If this is you perhaps you would like to come along and meet people experiencing this too?

This is a very welcoming group where you can talk quite freely and your confidence will be respected. There will be time to share your experiences, listen and have discussion as well as getting to know others in the group, with time for refreshments too.

If you are wondering whether the group is right for you, please phone one of us to talk about it. We welcome all new comers and would prefer that they arrive at 10.00 am on the above dates so that we can explain more about what happens.

The leaders, who are CRUSE Trained, and members of the group will offer a warm welcome and you will be in the presence of people who have been through loss and understand the pain and difficulties that this brings.

For more details telephone Sue Kenchington on **780260**, or Chris Stannard on **781978**.

New Year

Are you looking for a new project ? Would you like to grow your own vegetables , fruit and flowers? If so then please contact Bar Hill Allotment society to get your name down on the (short!) waiting list by emailing; **barhillallotment@gmail.com**

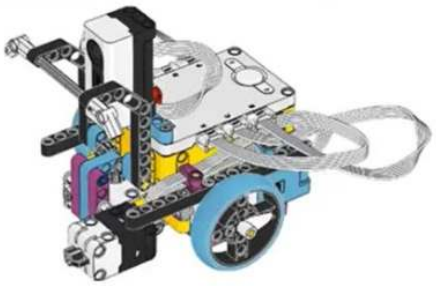
BHCA LEGO LEAGUE

The children are really progressing well with their programming and after using a special chart to decide which of the 15 missions they are going to attempt to do in the 3 minute time for finals day are well underway with programming their robots to carry out the daunting task of operating the interactive Lego models.

They have also been allocated their project work to consider a problem and find a solution which they will present to you on finals day (more in the next BHN).

As the finals day fast approaches, (7th March 2026 in the Village Hall), we are looking for a couple of people to help out with refereeing and scoring the robot games on the day, so if you would like to help make the day special (and get your own BHCA Lego League T-shirt), then please contact Bar Hill Community Association (barryd@barhill-ca.org) and we will get you trained up ready for action.

Don't forget you can always visit out website (**https://fll.barhill-ca.org)** to find out more.



Here is a picture of the robot that both teams have built, although they may decide to change them to enable them to program them to conquer the different challenges on the very large play-mat which you can see below

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BAR HILL BIN COLLECTION DATES

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15th January	✔		
22nd January		✔ only	*No*
29th January	✔		
5th February		✔	✔
12th February	✔		
19th February		✔ only	*No*

You can also add Bin Collection dates to your mobile/ tablet computer for automatic reminders!

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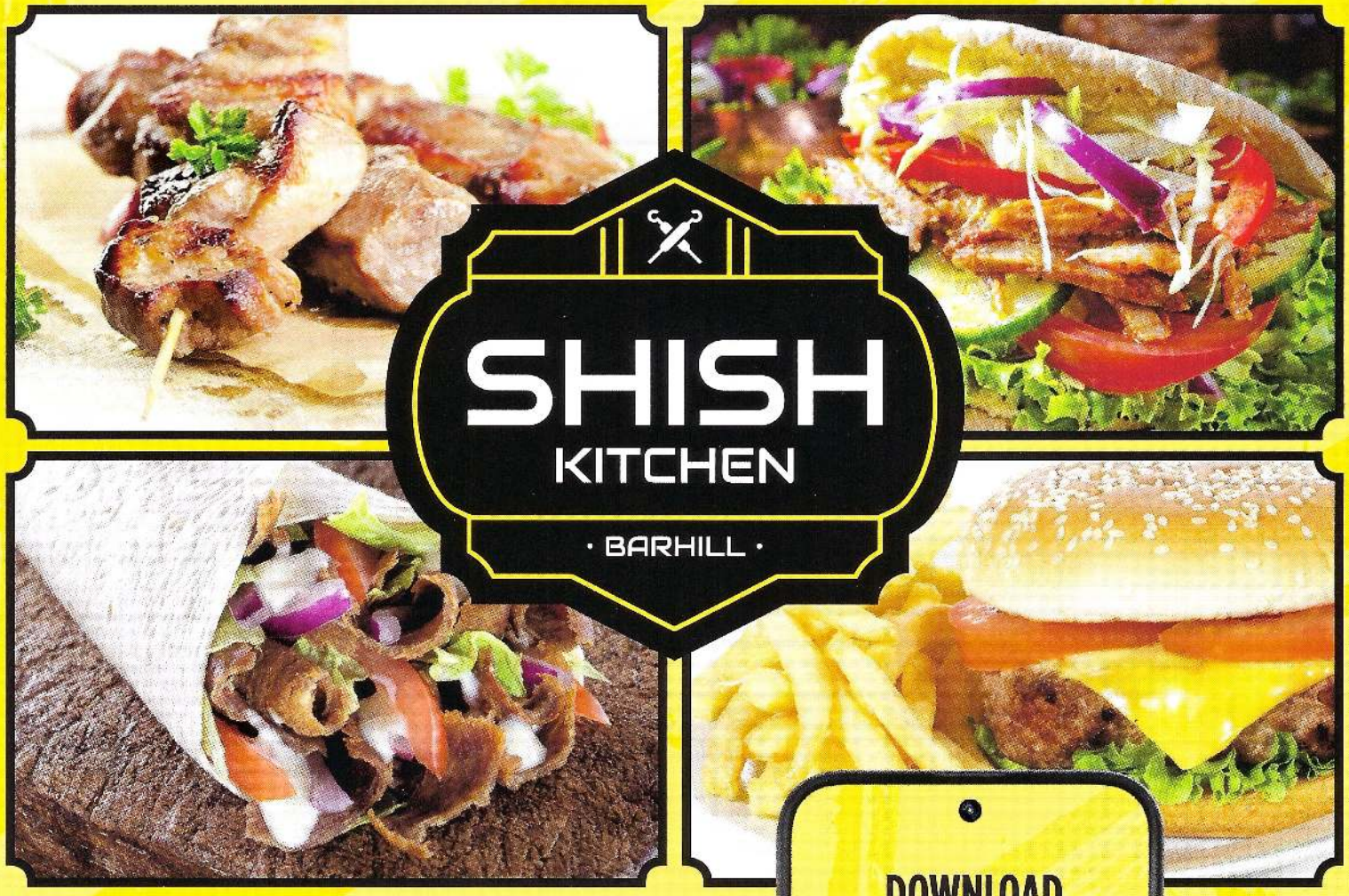
www.greatercambridgewaste.org/find-your-household-bin-collection-day



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